

Appl. No. : 09/846,777  
Filed : May 1, 2001

2. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 1, wherein the average pore diameter of the pores of at least the first surface or the second surface is greater than about 60  $\mu\text{m}$ .

3. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 1, wherein the average pore diameter of the pores of at least the first surface or the second surface is from greater than about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 3, wherein the average pore diameter of the pores of at least the first surface or the second surface is from about 60  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 4, wherein the average pore diameter of the pores of at least the first surface or the second surface is from about 70  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

15. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 14, wherein the polyolefin is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polypropylene.

17. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 16, wherein the hydrophilic component is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, polyvinylacetate and mixtures thereof.

18. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 16, having a weight ratio of polymer to hydrophilic component from about 1:20 to about 20:1.

19. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 18, wherein the weight ratio is from about 1:10 to about 10:1.

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2. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 1, wherein the average pore diameter of the pores of at least the first surface or the second surface is greater than about 60  $\mu\text{m}$ .

3. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 1, wherein the average pore diameter of the pores of at least the first surface or the second surface is from greater than about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 3, wherein the average pore diameter of the pores of at least the first surface or the second surface is from about 60  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 4, wherein the average pore diameter of the pores of at least the first surface or the second surface is from about 70  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

15. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 14, wherein the polyolefin is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polypropylene.

17. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 16, wherein the hydrophilic component is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, polyvinylacetate and mixtures thereof.

18. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 16, having a weight ratio of polymer to hydrophilic component from about 1:20 to about 20:1.

19. (Amended) The membrane of Claim 18, wherein the weight ratio **ranges** from about 1:10 to about 10:1.